Year	Allocation/Budget Estimates	Actual Expenditure/Revised Estimates
2001-2002	3256.00	3018.20
2002-2003	3950.00	3577.20
2003-2004	4269.00	N/A

Technique for examining DNA

1467. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists of CCMB, Hyderabad, have discovered a new technique for examining DNA;

(b) if so, the details of this new technique; and

(c) how it would help in catching the poachers of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The technique is based on the indigenously developed novel universal primers, to amplify and sequence a specific fragment of mitochondrial cytochrome *b* gene from vast range of animal species in a universal manner. The amplified product obtained from a confiscated biological sample, is in fact the molecular signature of the species of sample in question. The comparison of this signature with the signatures of known animal species available in the database of signatures, generated and maintained by CCMB, reveals the identity of the unknown sample beyond a reasonable doubt.

(c) Establishing species identify of confiscated animals is a great challenge to law enforcement agencies. The technique developed at CCMB is able to establish exact identity of confiscated animals(s) or part(s) and product(s) thereof. This DNA-based approach, without any prior information about the history of a forensic sample, is able to establish whether a drop of blood, tiny piece of meat or bunch of hairs belong to human or animal, and if animal, to which species of the animal.